

Frequently Asked Questions

Q1. What is the Farm Strategic Recruitment Initiative within the MPNP-B?

A. The Manitoba Provincial Nominee Program for Business (MPNP-B) is a component of an immigration program that was created through an agreement between the Government of Canada and the Province of Manitoba. The Farm Strategic Recruitment Initiative (FSRI) is a special rural economic initiative under the auspices of the MPNP-B. The purpose of this program is to attract suitable farm business persons that meet the criteria of the FSRI. The MPNP-B accelerates the immigration process by providing a Nomination Certificate to allow for faster processing by the Government of Canada of your immigration application.

Q2. How much net worth must I have to qualify as a business immigrant under the FSRI?

A. Farm business immigrants are required to have a legally earned or obtained net worth of at least CDN\$350,000.

Q3. How much does the MPNP-B require me to invest in Manitoba in the FSRI Program?

A. The amount of investment you make in Manitoba will be dictated by the type of farm business you establish, the size of the operation, and the farm sector that you intend to enter. Depending on the size of the farm the investment may be in the hundreds of thousands or millions of dollars. While the total investment may include financing, a minimum of \$150,000 must be from your personal resources.

The CDN\$75,000 deposit is not part of the investment.

Q4. Must I make an Exploratory Visit to Manitoba before submitting my application?

A. Yes. Exploratory Visits are mandatory for a minimum of five business days. This visit will allow you to identify and assess potential farming opportunities as well as experience rural Manitoba's quality of life.

Q5. If I attend an Exploratory Visit and submit my application to the FSRI, and if I am interviewed, will I automatically be nominated by Manitoba?

A. Making an exploratory visit to Manitoba and being interviewed will not guarantee that you will receive a Nomination Certificate. The MPNP-B bases its decision on many factors in addition to the minimum net worth and experience criteria.

Q6. Do my documents have to be translated by a certified translator?

A. Yes. All documents must be accurately translated into English or French. If nominated, the Canada Visa Office may require similar translated documents. Applicants are advised to prepare additional copies of translated documents for this purpose.

Q7. I do not understand English or French. Will this affect my chances of being approved under the FSRI?

A. Though not cause for automatic refusal of an application, the inability to speak English or French will negatively impact your chances of being approved under the FSRI. Although the FSRI does not employ an adaptability matrix that awards points for English or French language capabilities, the FSRI recognizes that language capabilities in either of Canada's two official languages are an important adaptability skill which can accelerate your ability to become economically established in rural Manitoba. FSRI applicants must demonstrate suitability and adaptability to the Manitoba farm industry, which is rural based and services are offered predominantly in English or French.

Q8. If I apply to the FSRI and if I am approved, will I be guaranteed a Permanent Resident Visa to come to Canada?

A. In addition to meeting the requirements of the MPNP-B, an applicant must also meet the requirements of the Federal Government's Department of Citizenship and Immigration Canada.

Q9. Why do the FSRI eligibility criteria specify that an applicant must demonstrate practical farming skills, technological knowledge and experience in technological-based farming practice that will immediately transfer directly to Manitoba's current primary production industry?

A: In the past, applicants who successfully established rural farm businesses consistent with existing Manitoba farm operations and investment levels displayed the characteristics of having farming skills, technical knowledge and experience in technological based farming practices, and language skills that were immediately adaptable or transferrable to Manitoba. The technical knowledge and experience in technological based farming practices were being employed by the successful applicant in their existing farm business.

Applicants with farming as their business intention who previously did not employ similar technological based farming practices on their farm operation, or have suitable language skills were less likely to be successful in establishing a farm business in rural Manitoba.

Q10. I have never owned a farm business or managed a farming operation. Does this affect my chances of qualifying?

A. Yes. All FSRI applicants must be able to demonstrate that they have a minimum of three years of farm business management or farm ownership and operation experience supported by verifiable documents. You must demonstrate your adaptability, specifically relating to your practical farming skills, technical knowledge and experience in technological based farming practices which will transfer directly to Manitoba's primary farm production industry that is currently in practice.

Q11. I operate a farm where the farm technologies, production practices, amount of investment, climate and / or government requirements are considerably different than Manitoba, but I am a hard worker, produce similar crops such as wheat and cattle, and I adapt easily to new business situations. Do I have a reasonable chance of being approved under the FSRI?

A. Manitoba will only nominate suitable farm business applicants whose practical farming skills, technical knowledge and experience in technological based farming practices are immediately transferrable to rural Manitoba, and that a long term contribution to the Manitoba economy can be achieved through their nomination. The MPNP-B recognizes that the FSRI Program will not be a suitable program for all potential farm business applicants. Applicants who do not meet the eligibility criteria of the FSRI are encouraged to review the MPNP-B Business Program, the MPNP Skilled Worker Program, or immigration programs offered by Citizenship and Immigration Canada with Manitoba as their destination.

Q12. I am not required to file income tax assessments or income tax returns on income that was earned through farming. Will this affect my chance of being a successful FSRI applicant?

A. All FSRI applicants must be able to demonstrate that they have a minimum of three years of farm business management or farm ownership and operation experience supported by verifiable documents. The MPNP-B requires all applicants to document their accumulation of funds as per IMM0008 Schedule 4a. Without official government documents to support declared income from farming operations as requested in the document checklist, the MPNP-B may not be able to accurately assess that you will meet the Program's and Citizenship and Immigration Canada's source of funds requirements.

Q13. What kind of information should I include in my Farm Business Intent?

A. Please refer to the "*Guidelines for Preparation of Summary of Farm Business Intent*" for specific information on how to complete the Farm Business Intent. The guide will provide you with some valuable information as to what factors a Farm Business Intent document should take into account. You may include any other information in your Farm Business Intent document that is not referred to in the Guide but that you think will be helpful in strengthening your proposal.

Q14. Do I need to hire a lawyer, consultant, or representative to help me complete or advise me on my application?

A. The MPNP-B does not require you to hire a lawyer, consultant or representative to assist you with your application. In some cases (for example, if you have difficulty understanding the forms), you may wish to hire someone to help you fill out the forms or give advice. However, if you hire someone, your application will not receive special attention, or be handled differently from other applications.

Q15. What kind of farm businesses will *not* be considered?

A. Please refer to the "*Eligible Farm Business Investments*" section of the MPNP-B website for specific information.

Q16. Why is a Deposit Agreement required?

A. If your Application for Nomination is approved by Manitoba; you will be required to make a CDN\$75,000 deposit to the Government of Manitoba, guaranteeing that you will live in Manitoba and establish a farm business in Manitoba. The deposit will be refunded to you when the investment described in your Deposit Agreement is made, your business is operational and you are living in Manitoba. The *Deposit Agreement* ensures that the applicant understands the commitment to Manitoba.

Q17. When do I deposit the CDN\$75,000?

A. After your Nomination Application has been approved, you will be given detailed instructions, including bank information, to make a deposit of the CDN\$75,000 to the Government of Manitoba.

Q18. When is the CDN\$75,000 Deposit released?

A. You have two years from the date of landing to fulfill the requirements of the *Deposit Agreement*. Once you have met the terms and conditions specified in your Deposit Agreement, your CDN\$75,000 deposit will be returned to you in full, without interest. Deposits are released to you only at your current address or may be wired to your account upon request. Any changes to the Deposit Agreement must be discussed and approved by the MPNP-B's Business Settlement Office before proceeding with any other business.

Q19. If I am approved for the Farm Strategic Recruitment Initiative (MPNP-B), what is my next step?

A. If you are approved as a Provincial Nominee under the FSRI, a Certificate of Nomination will be issued in your name (and your eligible dependents, if applicable) after the MPNP-B receives your signed Deposit Agreement and your deposit of CDN \$75,000. You will receive a letter from the MPNP-B which will provide detailed instructions about the deposit and the forwarding of Federal Immigration forms and Federal processing fees to the appropriate Centralized Intake Office of Citizenship and Immigration, Canada.

Q20. How long will it take for me to receive my Nomination Certificate and what are the factors that may delay processing my application?

A. There are several factors that can delay processing of your application. These may include, but are not limited to: delay on your part in returning a signed Deposit Agreement and making the deposit payment, incorrectly completed or unsigned application forms and/or missing documents; unclear photocopies; documents not accompanied by a certified English or French translation; failure to provide

an accurate mailing address or change of address; verification of information and documents provided or a change in family situation.

Q21. May I change my plans for my business venture after I arrive in Manitoba?

A. The Farm Strategic Recruitment Initiative is a special rural economic initiative under the MPNP-B. It is expected that if you are approved in the FSRI, that you will invest in and establish a farm operation in rural Manitoba. You are directed to contact the Business Settlement Office for any requests or business related circumstances regarding your Deposit Agreement.

Q22. What if I need more time than the two years after landing to establish my business?

A. An extension may be granted depending on your circumstances and what kinds of activities you had undertaken within the two-year period. Extensions are not automatically granted unless requested for with an adequate explanation as to why the extension should be granted. Any such requests should be directed to the Business Settlement Office in writing, no less than 30 days prior to the anniversary of the two year period.

Q23. What if I am unable to proceed with my business venture in Manitoba?

A. If the intended farm business does not go ahead or is not undertaken, your CDN\$75,000 deposit may be retained by the Province of Manitoba.

Q24. If I have already applied for immigration under a Federal Government Program, or under any other Provincial Nominee program, can I still apply to the FSRI?

A. You may apply to the FSRI under the MPNP-B only if your other application was filed through a Federal Government Immigration Program and if that application is still waiting for a decision. Your application under the MPNP-B will not be accepted if you already have a pending application with any of the other provinces of Canada.

Q25. What fees will I have to pay?

A. The MPNP-B charges a CDN\$2,500 Nomination Application fee. This fee is non-refundable. If you are nominated, you will be responsible for all Federal Immigration processing and the Right of Permanent Residency Fees. You will receive detailed instructions on payment of Federal fees after you are nominated.

Q26. Who do I contact after I arrive in Manitoba?

A. It is important that you contact staff of the Business Settlement Office, located in Room 600 – 259 Portage Avenue, Winnipeg, Manitoba, telephone: 204-945-1872, to arrange an appointment. You will be required to bring your landing papers with you at that time. The Business Settlement Office provides information, advice and guidance to Nominees of the MPNP-B in preparing for and going through the establishment of their proposed farm business.

Q27. Can I start to dispose of my assets after I get nominated by Manitoba and before getting my Permanent Resident Visa?

A. No, do not quit your job or dispose of any assets until Citizen and Immigration Canada has provided you with a Permanent Resident Visa.

Q28. Can I still apply if I have been refused under an immigration program of another province?

A. Yes, you can still apply. However, you will be required to advise the MPNP-B if an application has been made previously to another Provincial or Federal immigration program. You are required to advise the MPNP-B of the results of that application including copies of any correspondence such as a letter of refusal. The application should contain sufficient information to allow the MPNP-B to evaluate

why the factors for refusal in the other Provincial or Federal programs do not apply to the application to Manitoba.

Q29. If I have dependents, relatives or friends living somewhere else in Canada, will that cause my application to be automatically refused?

A. In the *Declaration of Intent* submitted as part of the application, you declare that you understand that Manitoba only nominates individuals who intend to reside in Manitoba along with your dependent family members. The MPNP-B strongly encourages you to demonstrate that you meet this requirement whether you have or do not have relatives, dependents or friends in another province. If, for example, a dependent is studying in another province, you might consider moving this dependent to an educational facility in Manitoba to demonstrate a commitment to the province. Having friends or relatives in another province does not automatically cause an application to be refused. However, the MPNP-B must be convinced that the applicant will not come to Canada and reside in the province where those friends or relatives currently are. It is up to you to convince the MPNP-B of your sincerity to relocate to Manitoba.

Q30: Does the MPNP-B assist Nominees to identify specific farm business opportunities in Manitoba?

A: As a government entity, the MPNP-B does not endorse or advertise directly or indirectly any farm business opportunities. The MPNP-B does not have a list of farms for sale. However, through the counselling services by the Business Settlement Office, the MPNP-B will provide you with the necessary information and knowledge that will allow you to undertake independent research for farm business opportunities in Manitoba. Manitoba has a very diverse agriculture economy with opportunities in a variety of farm business sectors. We encourage you to conduct as much research as possible to identify opportunities across the broad spectrum of farm businesses operating in the Manitoba economy.

Application Assessment and Procedural Fairness

Q31: How is an application assessed to determine if it meets the MPNP-B requirements?

A: The MPNP-B's assessment system uses a multi-step process for reviewing applications for nomination. Once the FSRI Nomination Application is received, the file is comprehensively assessed by a Business Immigration Officer. If the assessing officer is able to make a positive assessment with the information and supporting documentation contained within the application, an approval recommendation from the officer is then reviewed by the Assessment Review Team (ART) comprised of Senior Management of the MPNP-B.

If the assessing officer is inclined to recommend an application for refusal due to concerns that you have not satisfied the MPNP-B that you meet all Program requirements, a Preliminary Assessment Notice (PAN) letter will be sent to the applicant and his/her authorized representative (if applicable). The PAN will outline the officer's concerns and allow you 30 days to respond. The MPNP-B believes that this time period will allow you a fair opportunity to respond to the concerns outlined in the PAN. Upon receipt of information from you regarding the PAN or after the specified 30-day period has expired, the officer completes his/her assessment of the application. The final step is for the officer's recommendation to be reviewed by the ART. This multi-step process involving multiple officers of the MPNP-B ensures that each application is assessed fairly.

Q32: If I receive a PAN and respond, will my application automatically be approved?

A: The PAN provides you with a fair opportunity to satisfy the concerns raised by the assessing officer. The response you provide must satisfy all of the MPNP-B's concerns raised in the PAN. Subsequently,

the application will be assessed taking your response into consideration, but this does not guarantee that your application will be approved.

Q33: What happens to my application if I do not provide a response to a PAN within the specified period?

A: If you do not respond to the PAN within the specified time frame, your application will be assessed based on the information currently available. If the MPNP-B's concerns outlined in the PAN remain outstanding, your application could be recommended for refusal.

Q34: If my application is refused, can I appeal the decision?

A: All decisions are final. There is no appeal process to the MPNP-B after a decision has been rendered. The MPNP-B has implemented the Procedural Fairness Policy to allow the applicant to address concerns **prior** to the MPNP-B making a final decision.

Q35: If my application is refused after I have received and responded to a PAN, can I submit additional information for reconsideration after the decision?

A: No further consideration will be given to an application after the decision date. Any information submitted to the MPNP-B regarding a declined application will be returned.

Q36: If my application was refused, can I re-apply to the MPNP-B?

A: Yes. You may re-apply to the MPNP-B after a period of one year from the date on the refusal letter.

Q37: If my application has been refused due to the identification of falsified documents, misrepresentation or concealment of material facts can I re-apply?

A: Yes. However you will not be eligible to re-apply for two years from the date of the decline letter. You must start the application process by beginning at Step 1 of the "How to Apply" process. Applicants who wish to re-apply must also adhere to all the application steps and processes outlined in the "How to Apply" section.

Q38: If I withdraw my FSRI nomination application from the MPNP-B, can I re-apply?

A: You may re-apply to the MPNP-B after two years from the date confirming your withdrawal from the MPNP-B. In this case, you must start the application process at Step 1 of the "How to Apply" process. Applicants that wish to re-apply must also adhere to all the application steps and processes outlined in the "How to Apply" section.

Q39: If I receive a PAN and withdraw my application from the MPNP-B without responding to the PAN, can I re-apply?

A: You may re-apply to the MPNP-B after two years from the date confirming your withdrawal from the MPNP-B. In this case, you must start the application process at Step 1 of the "How to Apply" process. Applicants who wish to re-apply must also adhere to all the application steps and processes outlined in the "How to Apply" section.

NOTE: DO NOT QUIT YOUR JOB OR SELL OR DISPOSE OF YOUR PERSONAL POSSESSIONS AND BUSINESS ASSETS UNTIL YOU HAVE OFFICIAL CONFIRMATION FROM CITIZENSHIP AND IMMIGRATION CANADA THAT YOU WILL RECEIVE A PERMANENT RESIDENT VISA.